

Tutorial: Animate a 3D chart in Keynote

The latest version of Keynote introduces new animations that you can use to bring in or discard a chart. We take a look...



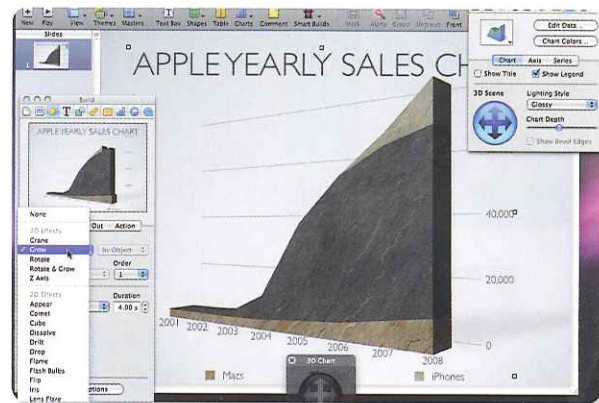
Task: Explore the new 3D chart animations

Difficulty: Beginner

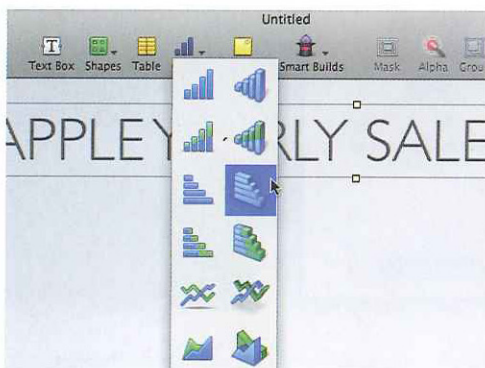
Time needed: 25 minutes



When it comes to animating objects on screen, there's no other presentation application around that can rival Apple's Keynote. And the latest version adds a few new capabilities to an already highly impressive program. We've looked at Magic Move in the last issue, and this time we'll be focusing on the 3D effects you can now add to your charts. These 3D effects can be used to make your charts appear and disappear, and it's a much more impressive feature compared to the simple transitions that have been available up until now. Over the next two pages, we'll show you how to customise a chart and add these animations to it.

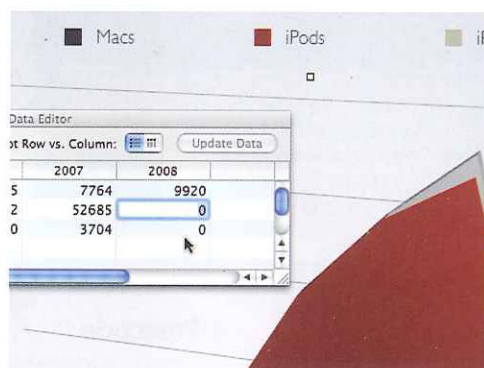


Step-by-step Keynote Create 3D animations for your charts



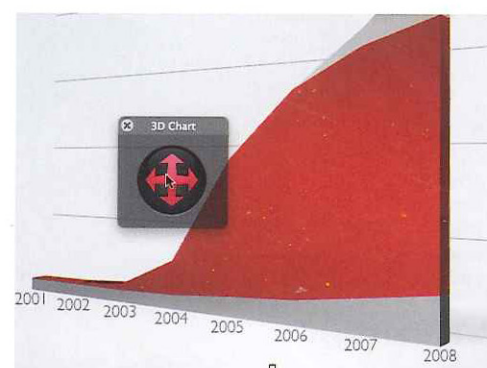
1: Chart selection

Begin by creating a new project. Click the Chart button in the toolbar (or go to Insert>Chart) and choose the chart you wish to use.



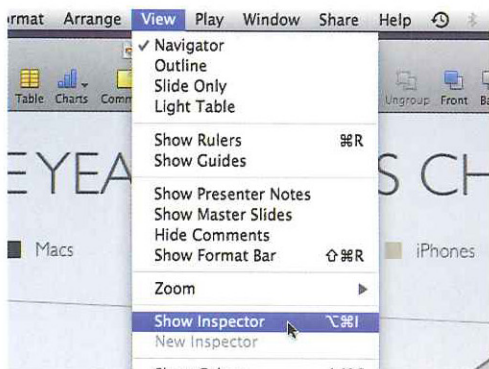
2: Data edition

Keynote automatically fills the chart with random values. The Data Chart Editor window will open, giving you the opportunity to input your own data.



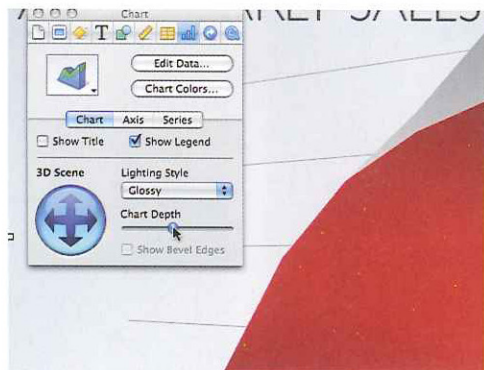
3: 3D rotation

If you chose a 3D-style chart, a semi-transparent window will open with a sphere inside it. Click and drag it to rotate your chart in three dimensions.



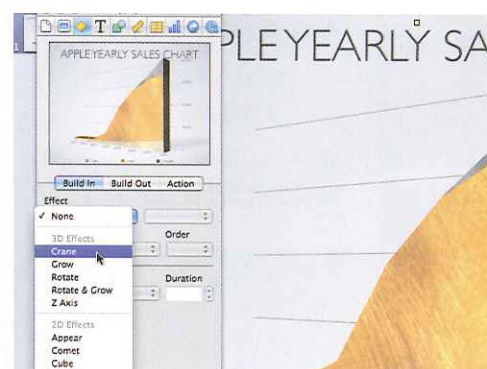
4: Into the Inspector

If it isn't already there, go to View>Show Inspector (or use the Opt+Cmd+I shortcut). Click on the Chart tab (third from the right).



5: Chart customisation

You can increase the chart's depth, change its lighting style and colours, etc. Experiment at your leisure then click on the Build tab (third from left).



6: The Build tab

With the Build In section selected, click on the Effect pull-down menu to see all the animated effects. The five 3D effects are listed first. Choose Crane.



Animate your Keynote

A new texture

Keynote '09 has a lot of new 3D textures to choose from. To access them, click on this button to reveal the Chart Colors window. You can even mix and match different textures in a single chart.

Multiple Inspectors

You can elect to have more than one Inspector window open at a time. This can only be achieved by going to the Menu Bar, selecting View and clicking the New Inspector option.

Knowledge base

Charts from numbers
Just like iWork '08, you can copy a chart from a Numbers spreadsheet and paste it into a Keynote slide. The major difference is that the two copies remain linked in the newest version. Alter the data in Numbers, save it, hit the Refresh button in Keynote and the changes are reflected in the slide.

Knowledge base

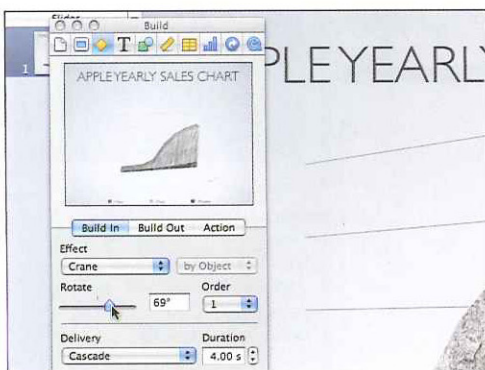
Timing is everything
By default, each animation is designed to happen on a mouse click. However, this may not suit your needs – especially if you're designing something to run automatically. In order to alter this setting, click on the More Options button in the Inspector's Build tab. Change the Start Build menu from On Click to Automatically After Transition. You can even add a time delay before the effect happens.

Special delivery

After you've chosen an effect, you can choose how you'd like your data to appear. By default it's all at once, but you can also make the columns appear one after the other if you'd prefer.

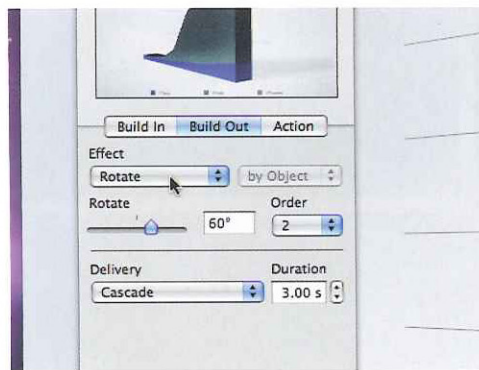
Change as you go

If the chart you've chosen turns out to not display the information as you wished, you don't have to re-create your whole work again – just click on this button, select another chart and your data will be immediately converted.



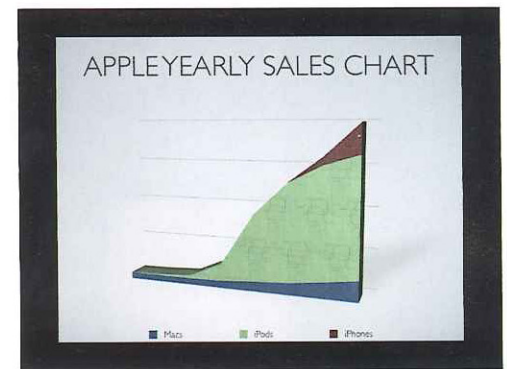
7: Animation preview

The small preview section at the top will display the effect. Each time you alter one of the parameters, the preview updates and plays again.



8: Time to go

Experiment with the other effects. When you've chosen one, click Build Out and choose a 3D effect to be used to remove the chart from the screen.



9: Full-screen display

To see your animation in full screen, go to Play>Play Slideshow. The effects are triggered each time you click on the mouse button.